

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

RADIO TV EVENING MAY 3

1. VALERIANI -- NBC - TV - "DURING FLIGHT A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAID KISSINGER WAS BEGINNING TO SEE THE SHAPE OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, BUT IT STILL DEPENDED ON DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THE OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE SYRIANS DID NOT MODIFY THE POSITIONS THEY LAYED OUT IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH THERE WOULD BE NO AGREEMENT. KISSINGER DROVE OFF TO LUNCH WITH FM KHADDAM IN A BULLET PROOF AMERICAN LIMOUSINE FLOWN IN ESPECIALLY FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. SECURITY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY TIGHT AND THE ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT WAS LINED WITH AGENTS AMID REPORTS THAT ARAB EXTREMISTS WERE GUNNING FOR KISSINGER. AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE DESCRIBED AS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PERSONAL SAFETY. AT THIS STAGE OF THE TALKS KISSINGER IS TRYING TO ...(UNINTELLIGIBLE)...THE DETAILS OF THEIR POSITION...(UNINTELLIGIBLE)... FOLLOWING THE SUEZ CANAL DISENGAGEMENT MODEL. AND HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH SIDES

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ARE MOVING FROM THE PHASE WHERE THEY HAVE ALREADY STATED

WHAT THEY WANTED

MOST, TO A PHASE WHERE THEY WILL CONSIDER WHAT IS ATTAINABLE. AFTER HE COMPLETES HIS TALKS HERE, KISSINGER IS FLYING BACK TO ALEXANDRIA FOR MORE CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT, THEN HE WILL RETURN TO JERUSALEM TOMORROW NIGHT TAKING WITH HIM SERIOUS THINKING ON DISENGAGEMENT SO THAT IT CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE ISRAEL CABINET DURING ITS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING ON SUNDAY."

2. KOPPEL---ABC - TV - "TODAY WAS GOLDA MEIR'S 76TH BIRTHDAY AND SO BEFORE LEAVING FOR DAMASCUS KISSINGER STOPPED AT THE ISRAELI PM'S HOME TO OFFER HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND TO GO OVER SOME OF THE POINTS THAT WOULD MAKE UP AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL ON DISENGAGEMENT WITH SYRIA. THE ELEMENTS INVOLVED INCLUDE THE SETTING UP OF A BUFFER ZONE WHICH THE ISRAELIS WANT TO HAVE OCCUPIED BY UN TROOPS, NOT OBSERVERS; WEDGES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BUFFER ZONE IN WHICH SYRIAN AND ISRAELI TROOPS WOULD BE THINNED OUT AND THE EXCHANGE OF POWS. AT HIS HOTEL SUITE IN JERUSALEM KISSINGER MET BRIEFLY WITH A DELEGATION OF POW FAMILIES. THIS IS A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ISSUE WITH THE ISRAELIS AS IT WAS IN AMERICA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THERE WERE NO SMILES AMONG THE FAMILIES. AFTER A ONE-HOUR FLIGHT KISSINGER LANDED IN DAMASCUS. THE SYRIANS REPORTEDLY ARE WILLING TO REACH A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM THE TERRITORY IT CAPTURED LAST OCTOBER, FROM THE TOWN OF KENEITRA WHICH WAS CAPTURED IN 1967 AND FROM THE STRATEGIC HEIGHTS AROUND KENEITRA WHERE DAILY FIGHTING IS NOW IN PROGRESS. AS FAR AS THE HEIGHTS ARE CONCERNED, THE SYRIANS ARE WILLING TO PERMIT THE UN TROOPS THAT ISRAEL WANTS ON THE CONDITION THAT ISRAEL AGREES TO LINK THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO A WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL CAPTURED TERRITORIES, A TOUGH POINT. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SYRIANS BEGAN OVER LUNCH AS SECRETARY KISSINGER MET WITH HIS SYRIAN COUNTERPART FM KHADDAM. LATE THIS AFTERNOON KISSINGER WENT INTO SESSION WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. SENIOR US OFFICIALS ARE STILL INSISTING THAT NO PLAN, AMERICAN OR OTHERWISE, EXISTS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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YET, BUT ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL DID ADMIT THIS MORNING THAT KISSINGER DOES SEE AN AGREEMENT TAKING SHAPE."

3. KALB --- CBS - TV - "KISSINGER ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY FM KHADDAM WHO HAS THE REPUTATION OF A HARDLINER IN SYRIAN POLITICS. THE RIDE INTO TOWN WAS THROUGH EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY SECURITY. THE TWO

DIPLOMATS HAD A WORKING LUNCH BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. KISSINGER HAS NO AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO PRESENT TO THE SYRIANS BUT HE DOES HAVE SOME SPECIFIC IDEAS - FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT WHERE A DISENGAGEMENT LINE OUGHT TO BE DRAWN AND WHAT LIMITATION OF FORCES OUGHT TO BE ESTABLISHED ON BOTH SIDES OF THAT LINE. HE WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A QUICK EXCHANGE OF SICK AND WOUNDED POWS BUT THE SYRIANS MAY NOT BE INTERESTED IN DOING THAT UNTIL AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED. LESS THAN THIRTY AIR MILES AWAY THE WAR OF ATTRITION CONTINUES ON THE GOLAN FRONT - SOVIET BUILT MIGS ZOOMING OVER DAMASCUS HEADING FOR THE WAR ZONE; SOVIET SUPPLY PLANES ZOOMING INTO DAMASCUS PRESUMABLY WITH FRESH WAR SUPPLIES; AND EVERY EVENING ON SYRIAN TV THERE IS BLACK AND WHITE FILM OF THE FIGHTING, VIVID REMINDERS OF KISSINGER'S PURPOSE HERE, TO END IT."

4. KALB --- CBS - RADIO - "KISSINGER AND ASSAD MET FOR ALMOST SEVEN HOURS AND SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY REPORTED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. BUT ON THE KEY ISSUE OF WHERE THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE IS TO BE DRAWN - THAT WAS DEFERRED UNTIL THE SECRETARY'S NEXT VISIT TO DAMASCUS WHICH TAKES PLACE NEXT MONDAY EVENING OR TUESDAY. NO AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED TONIGHT; NONE ARE ENVISAGED. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THE MOMENT WHETHER THE PROGRESS THAT WAS REPORTED RELATED TO KISSINGER'S APPEAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE ON THE GOLAN FRONT OR TO A QUICK RELEASE OF WOUNDED PRISONERS OF WAR, BUT THESE WERE AMONG THE ISSUES MCCLOSKEY ALLUDED TO. DURING THE SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON TODAY WITH SYRIAN FM KHADDAM, KISSINGER SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS WILLING TO SEND ECONOMIC AID TO SYRIA IF THERE IS A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. KISSINGER WAS USING A ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR FUND, IN EFFECT, TO BUY SYRIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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COOPERATION DURING THE NEGOTIATION."

RADIO MORNING MAY 4

1. KALB - CBS FROM DAMASCUS - AFTER DESCRIBING THE SECRETARY'S FLIGHT TO DAMASCUS AND THE SITUATION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, KALB CONTINUES: "THERE IS NO QUESTION REALLY THAT THE FIGHTING INCREASES THE PRESSURE, BUT THE SYRIAN STRATEGY PRESSURE MAY BACKFIRE ANYWAY, IF THEY COMPEL THE ISRAELIS TO TOUGHEN RATHER THAN SOFTEN THEIR NEGOTIATING STANCE. SO FAR, HOWEVER, THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED. ON THE CONTRARY ISRAEL HAS SOFTENED HER POSITION. WHEN THE ISRAELI CABINET MEETS TOMORROW MORNING ISRAEL MAY FORMALIZE THE CHANGE IN HER NEGOTIATING POSITION, THAT INSTEAD OF FALLING BACK ONLY FROM THE LAND

TAKEN DURING THE 1973 WAR, ISRAEL WOULD ALSO PULL BACK FROM A SLIVER OF LAND TAKEN DURING THE 1967 WAR, INCLUDING THE SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL OF KENEITRA. CONTROL OF THE HILLS AROUND KENEITRA IS STILL IN DISPUTE, UNRESOLVED UNTIL A LATER STAGE OF THIS NEGOTIATION. SYRIA SEEMS TO BE CHANGING HER POLICY ATTITUDE IF NOT LINE AS WELL. WHEN KISSINGER ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY, HE WAS GREETED WITH UNUSUAL WARMTH BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. THE SYRIAN DIPLOMAT HAS THE REPUTATION HERE OF BEING A HARD LINER, AND YET HIS TOAST AT AN OFFICIAL LUNCH WAS QUITE WARM. HE PRAISED KISSINGER'S PATIENCE, AND WISDOM AND SPOKE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT NEGOTIATION. KISSINGER IS CLEARLY TRYING TO WIN OVER ANOTHER ARAB STATE TO HIS MANNER OF ACCOMMODATION WITH ISRAEL, YESTERDAY'S MEETING SUGGESTS HE MAY BE HAVING SOME SUCCESS. OF COURSE, THE NATURE OF THE NEGOTIATION AT THE MOMENT IS THAT ISRAEL IS GIVING, AND THE ARABS GETTING, SO PERHAPS SYRIA'S PLAN IS ONLY TACTICS NOT STRATEGY, BUT EVEN IF IT IS TACTICS IT IS A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER AND KISSINGER IS A BELIEVER IN HIS OWN ADVICE ABOUT REACHING FOR THE ATTAINABLE. IT IS REALLY A FASCINATING EXERCISE IN POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY, KISSINGER BUILDING UP PRESSURES ON SYRIA AND ON ISRAEL, ONLY TO PUT HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF BEING THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN EASE THOSE PRESSURES, THUS BUYING GOOD WILL. HE BECOMES IN

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EFFECT "MR. FIXIT," THE GOOD GUY TO BOTH SIDES. KISSINGER HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT IF HE CAN GET A DEAL THAT SATISFIES NEITHER SIDE FULLY BUT BOTH SIDES SUFFICIENTLY TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE THEN HE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING QUITE MEMORABLE AND HE SEEMS TO BE WELL ON HIS WAY." RUSH

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